

Town of Winchester

Board of Health
71 Mt. Vernon Street
Winchester, MA 01890

Tel: 781-721-7121
Fax: 781-729-1794



David W. Heinold, CCM
Richard Maggio
Jessica Fefferman, MPH
Jennifer Murphy, MPH, Director
Kathy Whittaker, RN

September 8, 2009

To the Parent/Guardian of Winchester Student:

The Winchester Board of Health, in collaboration with the Winchester Public Schools, will be offering a voluntary FluMist® (Influenza Virus Vaccine Live, Intranasal) vaccination clinic in October 2009 for all Winchester Public School students in Kindergarten through 12th grade. **Please note, this vaccine protects against seasonal flu and not H1N1 (swine) flu.** When H1N1 flu vaccine becomes available later this fall, you will receive notice and flu clinics will again be conducted in the schools.

This fall and winter we are facing a flu season that will have both seasonal and H1N1 flu viruses circulating at the same time, with the probability that there will be a rapid resurgence of flu-like illness within the school community. The goal of this flu immunization initiative is to reduce the risk of influenza infections among children, and their need for medical visits and missed time from school. It will also reduce influenza among household members and people within the community.

It is the expectation that, even with increasing numbers of students with influenza-like illness, Winchester schools will remain open throughout this flu season. Some children, though, have significant underlying medical conditions that put them at increased risk for any flu – seasonal or H1N1. Parents in this situation should talk to their child's doctor about what is best for their child. This is the current advice from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

FluMist is a gentle mist that is sprayed into the nostrils and is approved for healthy people from 2 through 49 years of age. Those with long-term health problems such as asthma, heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes should not get FluMist. **Please refer to the attached Live, Intranasal Influenza Vaccine Information Statement for complete information.**

Please be aware that if your child has recently received a live vaccine (MMR, Varicella, or Yellow Fever) there must be at least 28 days between that vaccine and the day your child receives FluMist. Please check with your physician if you have questions concerning this.

For those students **not** medically eligible to receive FluMist, a flu vaccine can be administered by injection (flu shot) at the school clinic. **Please refer to the attached Inactivated Influenza Vaccine Information Statement for complete information.**

Please remember that this is a school-based clinic and parents cannot be present when their child receives the flu vaccination. If you feel that your child would be more comfortable with you in attendance, or be better suited having the vaccination with their physician, please make arrangements to do so.

Clinic Information

The flu vaccine will be administered by registered nurses from the Board of Health and School Department to each pre-registered and pre-paid student. This clinic will take place during school hours in your child's school in October. **The cost is \$10.00.** *Inability to pay does not exclude anyone from receiving the vaccine. Please see the school nurse.*

At the conclusion of the clinic, your child's physician will be sent documentation of the seasonal flu vaccination.

Booster Dose

Most people need one dose of flu vaccine each year. **Children younger than 9 years of age getting flu vaccine for the first time – or who got influenza vaccine for the first time last season but only received one dose – should get a booster dose (second dose) one month later, to be protected.** This booster dose will be administered in school with parental consent.

Seasonal Flu Clinic Dates

October 7 - High School	October 9 - Middle School	October 14 - Lynch
October 15- Vinson-Owen	October 16 - Ambrose	October 19 - Muraco
		October 20 - Lincoln

Permission Forms

Regardless of whether or not you want your child to get the flu vaccine, the Board of Health is requiring that all students return a completed form to school. This helps to ensure that all forms are accounted for. There is a section on the FluMist form to sign if you do not want your child to receive any flu vaccine in school. You may also find permission forms on the school website at

www.winchester.k12.ma.us

**PLEASE RETURN PERMISSION FORM BY
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009**

Thank you,
Kathy Whittaker RN
Public Health Nurse
Board of Health